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**Subject:** The Fitzsimon File: The scandalous special sessions that subvert our democracy

# NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices  
that **matter.**

## The Fitzsimon File:

### The scandalous special sessions that subvert our democracy

By [Chris Fitzsimon](#)

The General Assembly will convene a special session next week but most people in North Carolina, including the vast majority of the members of House and Senate, have no idea what legislation they will consider while they are in town.

Last week lawmakers met in a one-day special session supposedly to consider overriding a series of vetoes by Governor Roy Cooper. That was the stated purpose anyway.

But a number of lawmakers didn't make the session so votes on the vetoes were delayed and instead the House and Senate considered a series of bills, including one that would make it far more difficult to enact new environmental or workplace safety regulations no matter how desperately they are needed.

That highly controversial bill could affect the safety of every community in North Carolina but virtually no one knew it was coming. It was not listed on the House or Senate calendars for the day.

No committee meetings were held to discuss it or another anti-environment bill making the rounds in the corner offices of the Legislative Building, out of public view. The legislation just popped up that morning as a new version of a conference report.

The Senate passed it but the House balked at the last minute so the dangerous bill remains in limbo. Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger says it is still alive, which means it could come up at any time with no notice, no chance for people affected by the handcuffs on environmental protections to have their say. [\[Read more...\]](#)

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